

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14296

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FEDERATION INDIAN CHAMBERS
OF COMMERCE AND ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
1900 OCTOBER 28

REF: STATE 232370

1. MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM IN FICCI
FEDERATION HOUSE, ABOUT TWO BLOCKS FROM KAMANI AUDITORIUM.
PARTICIPANTS WILL BE SEATED AROUND A LARGE OVAL SHAPED CON-
FERENCE TABLE WITH THE US GROUP ON ONE SIDE AND THE INDIAN
BUSINESSMEN DIRECTLY OPPOSITE.

2. THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 40 INDIAN BUSINESSMEN ATTEND-
ING HEADED BY (K. BIRLA, PRESIDENT OF FICCI; N.S. BHAT,
PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS AND HARISH MAHINDRA, PRE-
SIDENT OF THE INDO-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. IN ADDITION,
ABOUT 10 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING FOREIGN SECRETARY
KEWAL SINGH AND AMBASSADOR TO THE US T.N. KAUL WILL BE INVITED.
US PARTICIPANTS WILL BE THE SECRETARY AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY,
AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, DCM AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND THE
CONSULS GENERAL FROM BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS, ALL OF
WHOM HAVE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC COMMERCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.
PRESS WILL NOT ATTEND.

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3. MESSRS. BIRLA AND BHAT WILL OPEN WITH SHORT (FIVE MINUTE) STATEMENTS WELCOMING THE SECRETARY AND OUTLINING INDIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY INTEREST IN EXPANDING INVESTMENT AND TRADE TIES WITH THE US. THEY WILL SPECIFICALLY WELCOME THE CREATION OF THE JOINT

COMMISSION AND SUGGEST THAT A MECHANISM (UNSPECIFIED) BE ESTABLISHED TO BRING INDIAN AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. THE SECRETARY WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE SOME INFORMAL REMARKS (PERHAPS FIVE MINUTES). MR. MAHINDRA WILL THEN CLOSE THE MEETING WITH THE TRADITIONAL VOTE OF THANKS. THE PARTICIPANTS WILL THEN LEAVE THE TABLE AND GO TO ANOTHER PART OF THE ROOM WHERE DRINKS WILL BE SERVED.

4. GOI HAS INFORMED US AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS THAT IT WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE ANY DISCUSSION OF SPECIFICS OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. GOI HAS NOT THOUGHT THROUGH ITS POLICY ON PRIVATE PARTICIPATION AND WOULD PREFER THIS BE DISCUSSED AND DECIDED AT FIRST MEETING OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION.

5. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.
SCHNEIDER

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